

# Focus on Fifth

## Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

November 10, 2014

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

### Important Dates

November 25

Outdoor Education permission slip due

December 4

Specials Showcase

December 9-10

Outdoor Education

### News

#### Number Hawks Volunteer Opportunity

Holmes is looking for volunteers to tutor students, primarily in Grades K-2, to become proficient mathematicians. Through strategically planned lessons and continuous data collection, you will help Holmes students increase their basic number sense. Can you commit to as little as 20 minutes one day per week or as much as 30 minutes every day? Please fill out the Google form (link below) so that you can be contacted about a tutoring training session and mandatory background check required by the district.

"Number Hawks" are set to take flight this November.

[https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh\\_sg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh_sg/viewform)

#### Outdoor Education Field Trip

This year's overnight trip will be on December 9 - 10. Permission slips were distributed last week and are due November 25. The cost of this field trip is \$70. You may pay online or by check payable to District 97. We want every 5th grade student to be able to attend this trip, so if the cost of this trip will cause undue hardship, please contact Maria Pascarella (our school's social worker) or your child's homeroom teacher so that we can work something out.

#### Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

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### SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) This week we are finishing our clay relief sculptures. They have been fired and we will be using black tempera paint and crayons to emphasize the designs we created in the clay. We are also beginning a printmaking unit. We are learning about the abstract, geometrical patterns found in Islamic artwork. We are using an eraser as a printing plate

to create a stamp that we will print forty-eight times, creating a very detailed pattern.

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> We are starting preparations on songs from Africa for our **specials showcase on December 4th!** Students this past week filled out a survey indicating their preferences for the showcase (singing, dancing, drums, etc.) I will do my best to assign students their first or second choice. **Please save the date.** More details will be coming soon!

**Chorus and Gold Belt** - Congratulations on a wonderful first performance! It was a beautifully touching concert and I look forward to many more. Stay tuned for details on a possible January concert! <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> . Just click on the chorus or gold belt tab.

**Spanish** - The students have been working with two new stories in preparation for specials night, *Juan El Bombero y Carlos y los 3 Monstruos*. We will be assigning roles for the event and practicing, practicing, and practicing in these upcoming weeks. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

**Library** - We will begin a short research project in the library this week, focusing on the science topic of human effects on the hydrosphere. A big push in the common core is to teach students about research through conducting short, focused projects that help students learn to properly search for information, paraphrase, and synthesise what they've found. Ask your student about what he or she is learning in library this week! Reading Olympians: Please continue to read! The Holmes competition is Wednesday, December 3. Need to know which book you're reading? Check in with your designated "team captain" or with Ms. Maneck in the library. Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

**Physical Education** - Coming for the entire month of November is HEARTLAND ADVENTURE. The kids go through a maze of obstacles as they explore the circulatory and respiratory systems ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

### **Reading/Literature**

This week, reading mini lessons will center around studying the characters in fiction texts. Students will learn that main characters always have connections to the other characters in a book. Students will apply this learning by creating a "Character Connections" chart in their Reader's Notebook. The chart describes the important characters in the students' novels as well as the connections between the main character and the other characters. Other mini lesson topics will include growing theories about characters, expecting complications in characters, and attending to objects that reveal characters.

### **Writing**

We will continue to create lists of "seeds" for personal narrative stories and try out quick versions of these stories by writing notebook entries of these small, important moments. We will also review strategies for writing strong narratives by telling stories step-by-step using actions, descriptions, thoughts, and dialogue.

### **Math**

In math this week, we will be working on determining the volume of a composite structure by decomposing the structure into rectangular prisms, calculating the volume of each prism, and then adding the individual prism volumes. At the end of the week, students will be constructing prism sculptures and determining the volume of the sculptures. As you may have noticed over the past few weeks, we have been devoting our Wednesday math classes to problem solving. On problem solving days, the homework will not be in the workbook. It will be posted on the 5th grade wiki. Students have also been taking photos of the posted homework problem with their iPads.

All students have developed action plans to help them achieve their winter MAP goal. If you haven't yet reviewed your child's action plan, please do, and have your student return the signed action plan to his/her teacher. Students should be completing their action plan items in addition to daily homework.

**Science**

In science this week, we will work with Ms. Maneck to introduce a short research project that will require students to investigate how human action has an effect on the hydrosphere. This project will ask them to choose a water topic to explore and explain how humans are connected. The final product will be a 2-3 slide presentation using Keynote to explain to other students what they have learned.

**Social Studies**

Students will continue to work on finding Main Idea and Details. We will read a passage about the controversy of using native american names and images as sports mascots.

**Spelling/Word Study**

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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